

EPA Statement on Preliminary Biota Sampling Results
November 20, 2006

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found lead that may be related to waste disposal at the Ringwood Mines/Landfill Superfund site in one of six squirrels sampled during its efforts to evaluate contamination in possible food sources. Based on the results, the Agency feels it is important to expand its efforts to test animals for lead. EPA will evaluate its options to expand the study to increase the number and types of animals it will sample. We will consult with community leaders and their technical advisors in the first week of December to further discuss our sampling.

EPA collected and analyzed several species of plants and animals at the Ringwood site; squirrel tissue was sampled as part of this effort. Data on plants and other animals sampled will be released when it is available. Lead contamination can pose health threats to humans, especially children, and it can be found in the paint sludge present at the Ringwood site.